

Scott Gustin

From: Karen Huber <karenannehuber@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:21 AM
To: Scott Gustin
Subject: Burton Higher Ground Project

[WARNING]: External Message

>
> TO: Planning and Zoning, City of Burlington
>
> ATTN: Scott Gustin, Principal Planner
>
> FM: K. A. Huber, Burlington, VT
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> RE: Burton/Higher Ground Project
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> As the above-referenced project is reviewed, please think of the impact it will have on the surrounding communities.
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> Currently the Burlington south end neighborhoods are very quiet - a pin may be heard dropping by 10 p.m. The demographics vary from young families to senior citizens. The car traffic is light with a fair amount of pedestrian and bicycle traffic. If there's a Burton Higher Ground down the street, the occasional car passing by on a Saturday night could increase to more than 2,000 cars per musical show (assuming 1,000 of the 1,500 tickets drive to and from the venue). This could occur as often as three times a week. That's a lot of traffic! And it's going to be mostly young adults who are excited and after a night at the Burton complex probably impaired. The small roads are riddled with stop signs and potholes and of course there's the one-way bridge and the late night freight trains - has anyone thought about them? When the patrons make their return trip to I-89 at 2 .a.m, they'll be traversing these quiet neighborhoods where children sleep.
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> What about COVID???? Higher Ground is staging outdoor concerts in parking lots. Could that happen at Burton? If Covid impacts business long enough, they'll need to do a Outdoor Drive-In type of venue. As it is when Burton has one of their events, we can hear it everywhere from South Burlington, South Cove, Home Avenue, Ledgewood to Southwind. The area is a big bowl - all the sound is circulated around the rim and even amplified.
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> Surely there's a better alternative for Higher Ground, especially as the Pandemic is changing the performing arts paradigm. It would be fantastic to have Higher Ground in Burlington. The City of Burlington might resume negotiations with Higher Ground for Memorial Auditorium or a more suitable location. Because the little residential avenues of Burlington's southend are not appropriate.
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> Thank you,
> K. A. Huber
> Ledgewood Circle